

IN THE CLAIMS

1-58. canceled

59. (currently amended) A laminating method of forming a laminate layer on a recording surface of a recording medium, comprising:

laying a laminate material having a size larger than the recording medium over the same and thermally press bonding them together; and

transferring a laminate layer of the laminate material onto the recording surface of the recording medium by the thermal press bonding, and transferring the laminate layer protruding outwards from the recording medium onto a transfer medium means that is disposed on the side of the surface of the recording medium opposite to the recording surface to be capable of being moved away from the surface of the recording medium opposite to the recording surface.

60. (original) The laminating method according to claim 59, wherein the transfer medium means is moved towards the side of the recording medium opposite to the recording surface and separated so as to cut a laminated portion having the laminate layer adhered onto the recording surface away from a non-laminated portion having the laminate layer adhered onto the transfer medium means.

61. (original) The laminating method according to claim 60, wherein the laminate material having a sheet-like substrate peelably laminated to the laminate layer is used and the substrate is peeled off from the laminate layer of the thermally press bonded

laminate material.

62. (original) The laminating method according to claim 59, wherein the transferred width of the laminate layer transferred onto the transfer medium means is about 3 mm or larger.

63. (original) The laminating method according to claim 59, wherein thermally press bonding is again carried out after the thermally press bonding.

64. (original) The laminating method according to claim 61, wherein thermally press bonding is again carried out after the substrate has been peeled off from the laminate layer of the thermally press bonded laminate material.

65. (original) The laminating method according to claim 59, wherein plural recording media are successively supplied so as to have a precedent recording medium spaced with a given distance from a subsequent recording medium, and are thermally press bonded.

66. (original) The laminating method according to claim 59, wherein the laminate material having a length in a first direction longer than the length of each recording medium in a first direction and having a length in a second direction orthogonal to the first direction longer than the length of each recording medium in a second direction orthogonal to the first direction is used, and the recording media and the laminate

material are supplied in the first direction while having a precedent recording medium kept substantially close to a subsequent recording medium and are thermally press bonded.

67. (original) The laminating method according to claim 59, wherein the laminate material having a length in a first direction longer than the length of the recording medium in a first direction and having a length in a second direction orthogonal to the first direction substantially equal to the length of the recording medium in a second direction orthogonal to the first direction is used, and the recording media and the laminate material are supplied so as to have the opposite ends of the laminate material in the second direction matched to the opposite ends of the recording medium in the second direction and are thermally press bonded.

68. (original) The laminating method according to claim 60, wherein an under film is used as the transfer medium means, and at least one of the laminate material and the under film is preheated prior to the thermally press bonding.

69. (original) The laminating method according to claim 60, wherein the transfer medium means is separated upon elapse of a given time after the thermally press bonding.

70. (original) The laminating method according to claim 61, wherein the separating step of the transfer medium means is carried out after the peeling-off step of

the substrate.

71. (original) The laminating method according to claim 61, wherein the peeling-off step of the substrate is carried out after the separating step of the transfer medium means.

72. (original) The laminating method according to claim 61, wherein the separating step of the transfer medium means and the peeling-off step of the substrate are substantially simultaneously carried out.

73. (original) The laminating method according to claim 60, wherein the speed at which the transfer medium means is separated is lowered for at least a leading edge side of the leading edge side and a tailing edge side of the recording medium in a separating direction of the transfer medium means.

74. (original) The laminating method according to claim 61, wherein the speed at which the substrate is peeled off is lowered for at least a leading edge side of the leading edge side and a tailing edge side of the recording medium in a peeling-off direction of the substrate.

75. (original) The laminating method according to claim 60, wherein a sheet-like transfer medium material is used as the transfer medium means and the transfer medium material is moved away from the recording medium in a direction obliquely

Serial No.: 10/594,726

thereto.